

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0643

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MARR
SUBJ: NATO AWACS: DANISH POSITION ON INITIAL COMPUTER R&D FUNDING

REF: STATE 303628

SUMMARY: DANISH MOD SOGAARD BELIEVES APPROACH TO DANISH
PARLIAMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE ON POTENTITALLY CONTROVERSIAL
AWACS SUBJECT WITHOUT TOTAL FIRM PROGRAM COST FIGURES COULD
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BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND POTENTITALLY DAMAGING TO MOD'S
PRESENT POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PROGRAM. PRESENT SCENARIO
CALLS FOR PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF DANISH AUTHORITY
TO PARTICIPATE IN ENTIRE AWACS PROGRAM PRIOR TO MAY DPC,
ASSUMING VALID COST FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM U.S. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT OPERN AND CANDID DISCUSSION ON WIDE RANGE OF SU-
JECTS WITH DANISH MOD SOGAARD, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS HIS
RESERVATIONS AT DEC DPC ON R&D FUNDING FOR AWACS COMPUTER.
SOGAARD REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH DENMARK WAS NOT OPPOSED
TO AWACS IN PRINCIPLE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PRESENT
THE PROPOSAL TO THE FOLKETING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE
EXACT COST FACTORS WERE AVAILABLE TO HIM. SOGAARD
CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT, TO PRESENT THE PACKAGE AS IT
NOW STANDS, WOULD LEAVE HIM IN A MOST VULNERABLE POSITION
VIS-A-VIS THE OPPONENTS TO DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE
PARLIAMENT WHO WILL CERTAINLY QUESTION THE NEED FOR SUCH
AN AIRCRAFT FOR DENMARK.

2. AS WE SEE SCHEDULE HERE, THESE FIRM COSTS ON STANDARD
CONFIGURATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO PERMREPS ON FEBRUARY.
IF ACCEPTED BY PERMREPS, SOGAARD SHOULD THEN BE ABLE TO
PRESENT AWACS PROPOSALS TO FOLKETING. SOGAARD HOPES HE
WOULD RECEIVE AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PROCUREMENT IN
TIME FOR MAY DPC.

3. FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS I ASKED SOGAARD TO SET OUT
THESE POINTS IN A MEMORANDUM. MEMORANDUM WAS RECEIVED
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, AND IS TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.

4. COMMENT: UNDOUBTEDLY AWACS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A
CONTROVERSIAL AND HEATED FOLKETING DEBATE, ESPECIALLY IN
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LIGHT OF THE NEAVY F-16 COST BURDEN ON DANISH DEFENSE
BUDGET AND PROPENSITY OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT
(THE FAR LEFT, THE RADICAL PARTY AND SOME PARTS OF THE
PROGRESSIVES AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) TO VIGOROUSLY
CRITICIZE DEFENSE SPENDING IN GENERAL. WE ARE INCLINED
TO AGREE WITH SOGAARD'S CONCLUSION THAT HE COULD HAVE
GREAT DIFFICULTY IF HE WENT TO PARLIAMENT FOR ANY PART
OF THE AWACS PROGRAM BEFORE HE HAS THE COMPLETE COST
PACKAGE IN HAND.

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